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TCDC

Technical co-operation among developing countries

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PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING THE TASKS ENTRUSTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM BY THE BUENOS AIRES PLAN OF ACTION FOR PROMOTING AND IMPLEMENTING TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Report of the Administrator

Addendum

Reports of organizations of the United Nations development system

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READEX FICHE

1. International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

I. Support to promotional and operational activities

Any activity that brings about human resources development and the improvement of national or regional capacity is potentially a promotional activity for TCDC even though that activity had not been conceived specifically for TCDC purposes. The Union believes that most of its training programmes and seminars will help promote TCDC. Over the reporting period promotional activities were:

At the Harare Africa Telecommunications Development Conference (December 1990), a paper was presented explaining the TCDC modality of technical assistance and urging its increased use by the developing countries especially since funds for technical assistance are diminishing in real terms. Telecommunication equipment from the South was also exhibited to encourage South-South cooperation.

II. Measures taken (or planned) to strengthen the organization's supportive role in promoting TCDC

The Union's financial base is set out in its budget, which gives a special allocation to promote TCDC activities. The focal point which has been "part time" will remain that way but will be strengthened under the restructuring of the Union which is now under way. No legislative enactment of TCDC is embedded in the Union's Convention at the moment. Sectoral counterparts are hard to come by at the country level.

III. Use of developing countries' capacities

Procurement of goods and equipment from developing countries is on the increase and is being encouraged as a matter of policy. Telecommunications being a highly specialized and fast-changing technology; only a handful of developing countries can provide the equipment to meet the standards required for world-wide connection.

Other developing countries either look down on equipment from their region or prefer field-proven equipment from the North.

For the recruitment of qualified experts, the Union is turning more and more to countries that have now reached a stage of adequate development in the field of telecommunications. Brazil and India constitute two good examples of countries which have become sources of valuable expertise.

Looking at another aspect of this trend, consulting firms located in developing countries were awarded contracts in the framework of international bidding (e.g. RASCOM).

In addition, ITU would like to quote two global figures relevant to its regular budget for TCDC only: 1989, $14,000; 1990, $23,200. Other TCDC activities took place (e.g. project 9/HON/88/003) but quantitative data are not at hand at present.

2. International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Section I

Support to promotional and operational TCDC activities

Promotional activities. IMO, UNDP and the Government of Argentina have cooperated in the development and implementation of the first Programming Exercise in Maritime Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean, from June 1988 to September 1989. Public and private-sector entities of 21 countries undertook to share maritime expertise in the context of 120 TCDC projects approved at the Regional TCDC Meeting held in Buenos Aires in September 1989. Projects deal with protection of the marine environment, maritime safety and accident prevention, and related aspects of shipping and ports. A similar Programming Exercise is currently under consideration for the Asia and Pacific region.

Operational activities. A great number of developing countries are involved in the sharing or exchange of maritime technical resources in the context of national and regional maritime education technology projects, as well as the Programming Exercise in Maritime Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean. A project for the integration of women in maritime activities drawing on TCDC inputs is currently under development.

Problems encountered. The Handbook on TCDC, currently under preparation, will help overcome the lack of widespread knowledge about the concept, potential, usefulness and cost-effectiveness of TCDC, particularly as regards private and public-sector maritime entities with little or no contact with the United Nations development system. Further, obtaining feedback on the implementation of TCDC activities which may have been initially promoted by IMO is difficult in the case of maritime entities taking over the organizational and management activities by themselves. As such, these developments are positive but they do pose problems when attempting to review in aggregate terms the progress made under TCDC modalities.

Measures to strengthen the organization's supportive role in promoting TCDC. The organization's technical cooperation activities are entirely financed out of extrabudgetary donor contributions, and there is no financial base for TCDC as such. Within available means, and in collaboration with organizations of the United Nations system and recipients, every effort is made to service promotional TCDC activities. At the project formulation stage, the review of all potential TCDC inputs is well established, and has led to an increasing number of TCDC exchanges of experts and consultants in technical maritime fields. The organization reports periodically on developments in TCDC to relevant IMO intergovernmental bodies, such as the Technical Cooperation Committee, Council and Assembly, as well as other relevant forums.

Organization: IMO

SECTION II

Level of Support for TCDC by Number of Activities and Amounts (in $'000s), 1 January 1989 - 31 December 1990

I. PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

(A) Strengthening of Countries' Capacities for TCDC

Type of Activities	Regular Programme		U Country IPF		R Regional IPF		P INT/GLO IPF		Development Banks		Funds-in-Trust & Other External Donors		Recipient Countries' Own Trust Funds		Total Current Reporting Period		Total Preceding Reporting Period	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
Institution Strengthening					2	513									2	513		
Networking																		
Info System Strengthening																		
TCDC Focal Points																		
TCDC Training																		
Other																		
Sub-totals					2	513									2	513		

(B) Specific Activities to Promote, Identify or Formulate TCDC Operational Activities

Meetings, Seminars & Workshops																		
Feasibility Studies & Surveys																		
Training																		
Other							1	80							1	80		
Sub-totals																		
TOTAL							1	80							1	80		

II. CATALYTIC SUPPORT PROVIDED TO OPERATIONAL TCDC ACTIVITIES

Experts																		
Equipment																		
Fellowships																		
Contracts																		
Other																		
Total Operational																		
GRAND TOTAL																		

Organization: IMO

SECTION III
Statistical Summary
Utilization of the Capacities of Developing Countries in
Programmes and Projects of the UN Development System
1 January 1989 - 31 December 1990

EXPERTS/CONSULTANTS

Total Provided		Recruited from Developing Countries			
W/M	US$ '000s	W/M	US $ '000s	% of Total	% of Total $ US
3/173	1,080,000	0/31	130,000	18%	12%

FELLOWSHIPS

Total Provided		Placed in Developing Countries			
W/M	US$ '000s	W/M	US $ '000s	% of Total Number	% of Total $ US
9/152	3,208	0/45	662	28%	21%

EQUIPMENT

Total Provided	Purchased From Developing Countries		
US$ '000s	US $ '000s		% of Total $ US
2,700,000	215,000		8%

SUBCONTRACTS

Total Provided		Awarded to Institutions/Firms of Developing Countries			
Number	US$ '000s	Number	US $ '000s	% of Total Number	% of Total $ US
16	110,000	1	5,000	6	4.5%

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3. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Summary assessment

This section briefly describes the IFAD Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) Programme which represents the Fund's increasing efforts in supporting National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS), with the objective of strengthening their capacity to address aspects of agricultural research with a focus on the rural poor and the mitigation of the technological constraints to their resource-poor production systems.

I. Support to promotional and operational TCDC activities

The importance of establishing a close linkage between research and extension (with the close participation of the farmer beneficiaries in the technology system) has led to the Fund's adoption of the principle of closely linking adaptive research to a corresponding development project. Such systematic linkages are now a fundamental feature of all current research grants supported by the Fund. All these grant-supported projects illustrate the importance of international technical cooperation through collaborative research networks involving linkages established between and among national development programmes for the achievement of greater impact on the rural poor smallholders - who constitute the main beneficiaries of the technologies generated as a result of such technical cooperation. This cooperation fostered through the Fund's intervention has benefited a number of national research programmes which, otherwise, found access to externally developed technology a major constraint to the generation of improved technologies indigenously.

II. Measures taken to strengthen the Fund's supportive role in promoting TCDC

In the initial years, the Fund followed the procedure of receiving specific research project proposals for strengthening NARS through technical cooperation, from agricultural research centres for review, selection and subsequent support, as appropriate. However, in order that its specific concerns and thrusts are adequately reflected IFAD has assumed the responsibility for the preparation of certain specific grant proposals. It has been successful in formulating a number of projects in the past two years, which have been acknowledged to be highly innovative in design and focus on IFAD specificity, and which have, as a result enjoyed substantial cofinancing support from interested donors.

With a grant amount totalling $US 12 million approved in 1990 for six TAG research and development programmes, the Fund has been able to mobilize roughly $US 50 million worth of cofinancing. Thus, a substantial amount of resources were made available from non-IFAD resources, to address research issues of direct relevance to the Fund's operations as well as to channel these resources towards the institutional strengthening of developing country

NARS. In addition, innovative research and training programmes were also designed under the auspices of IFAD, in the past year in order to strengthen manpower resources in the developing regions. The Fund's successful experience in designing these programmes has encouraged it to consider increasing its involvement in the conceptual and preparation stages of planned research programmes through its technical assistance grants operations.

III. Use of developing countries' resources

Among the models of research collaboration at the regional level, IFAD has consistently adopted those that serve to strengthen developing country NARS. Until recently, the grant programmes have been based on conventional collaborative research network models which foster technical cooperation between NARS. The Fund has come to recognize, however, that there exist some NARS in developing countries which have developed to the point where they could assume greater research and training responsibilities, as well as contribute directly to strengthening other national programmes (akin to South-South technical cooperation). IFAD considered this an opportunity to increase the momentum of the global research effort through encouraging NARS to strengthen their own capacity to mobilize resources for their sustenance. The Fund is therefore assisting NARS in achieving a sustained flow of resources through providing support to various research programmes which can make it "attractive" for developing country Governments to allocate more resources towards these programmes.

IV. Innovative approaches to TCDC

The transfer to national programmes of some of the research and training initiatives which are currently the responsibility of international centres is one of the innovative approaches to TCDC which the Fund has adopted to strengthen NARS capabilities. The Fund is specifically promoting an innovative collaborative initiative through CIMMYT (Grant No. 201) which involves the decentralization of some research and training responsibilities of CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre) to devolve onto the National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA), Argentina.

V. Review of IFAD's support for agricultural research grants, 1990

The main thrust of IFAD's technical assistance grant support for research in 1990 has continued to be on the generation, assessment and diffusion of sustainable agricultural technologies through the Fund-financed ongoing research programmes, most of which are based firmly on the concept of TCDC given the regional collaborative research effort being supported. The technical assistance grants, approved during the year, also maintained IFAD's specificity by reinforcing its emphasis on research and development of traditional and other food crops, and livestock which contribute to the sustenance of vulnerable, resource-poor and often landless, beneficiary groups.

The food crops focus in 1990 was on the collaborative (networking) research and development of the date-palm and cassava, both of which are widely considered as extremely important traditional crops in some of the most marginal agro-ecologies. In the context of the traditional food-tree crop, IFAD's grant is supporting an intervention to rehabilitate production in the date-palm subsector crippled with disease and declining yields, with crucial economic implications for the rural poor in many developing countries in the Near East and African region, for whom the food-tree crop remains the mainstay of existence and also constitutes a critical factor of environmental protection in oases ecology.

Through IFAD's new support to the cassava research and development programme, small farmer beneficiaries in the drier tropical and the subtropical areas of Africa, Latin America and Asia would derive enormous economic benefits from the introduction of appropriate cassava varieties, hitherto unknown in these ecologies. The links developed between the various national research programmes and the Fund-financed investment projects would catalyse efforts to distribute improved cassava varieties with desirable traits of drought and pest resistance, long-term underground storage capabilities and low-input requirements, especially in areas which have a great untapped potential to produce cassava and thus contribute to food security.

In the field of livestock research, the stress was on the most under-researched traditional domestic animal, the camel, which has an important role to play in the livelihood of the rural poor who traverse the deserts and other arid zones. IFAD's initiative to promote regional collaborative research on the dromedary is in response to the need to consolidate, streamline and strengthen the sporadic camel research efforts currently ongoing in camel-producing countries. The multi-purpose role of the camel as a milk and meat producer, draught animal and means of transport as well as its adaptability to harsh climatical conditions, meets the requirements of the nomadic pastoralists in regions where it could make a very significant contribution to environmental stabilization.

Through that grant, IFAD envisages substantial gains to be reaped in terms of acquiring better knowledge and understanding of traditional livestock systems and their propensities to respond to a dynamic economic environment which necessarily dictates changes in production patterns. The emphasis of the Fund's intervention remains on applied research in order that it may contribute to the development of practical recommendations to ensure herd health, methods of improving livestock productivity at the field level (within the framework of resource-poor conditions) and improvements in the processing and marketing of livestock products - without disturbing, to the extent possible, the sociological basis of the traditional livestock systems being addressed.

Another theme which was given major importance was training, a critical means of institutional strengthening and innovation. As part of research and training programmes, the training activities addressed research scientists and

technicians in regional and international agricultural research centres drawn from among those who are familiar with small farmers' production systems. These scientists would be involved in research undertakings which respond to specific problems faced by smallholder wheat producers in areas covered by IFAD-funded projects. IFAD's grant is supporting fellowships based on the group training concept with a view to foster closer cooperation and communication between scientists and institutions of different developing countries, and with those in IARCs (international agricultural research centres).

4. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

I. Support to promotional and operational TCDC activities

The IAEA continued to implement projects with sizeable TCDC components within the framework of two regional cooperative agreements in Asia (RCA) and in Latin America (ARCAL). At the design stage of new projects those components which could be implemented on a TCDC basis were identified. Also on the occasion of regular regional working group meetings member States were encouraged to assist in the implementation of such projects. It is worthy to note that participating developing countries made considerable in-kind contributions to project activities, including payment of travel and per diem by host countries of training courses to participants from other countries. In addition, a special project on the promotion of TCDC in Asia was established in 1989 which was financed by the IAEA's Regular Fund. In the Latin America region the IAEA organized a meeting under the ARCAL programme which was held in Buenos Aires in November 1990 and which was funded by the participating countries and the Special Unit for TCDC.

African member States of the IAEA have since 1988 been considering the establishment of a regional arrangement for cooperation in the field of nuclear science and technology in Africa similar to the arrangements in Asia and Latin America. In February 1990, the African Regional Cooperative Agreement (AFRA) was endorsed by the IAEA Board of Governors and the Inaugural Meeting of AFRA's Technical Working Group was held in Cairo in September 1990. To date nine African countries have acceded to it: Algeria, Egypt, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria, Sudan and Tunisia. It is foreseen to tap the already existing potential in certain countries and to make it available to other States in the region where such expertise is needed. In addition, all planned AFRA activities emphasize the establishment of capabilities which will in turn lead to a further strengthening of the bonds of mutual collaboration.

II. Measures taken to strengthen the IAEA's supportive role in promoting TCDC

During the last biennium, IAEA undertook a more systematic exploration of TCDC possibilities for implementing selected parts of projects. The TCDC focal point within the IAEA is the Programme Coordination Section, which is involved in the programming process of technical cooperation activities and alerts the programming staff to include TCDC elements into projects whenever possible.

III. Use of developing countries' capacities

With regard to experts and training course lecturers originating in developing countries, a satisfactory share within the total technical cooperation programme was achieved by the IAEA. In respect of equipment it has to be reiterated that the high technology nature of most of the equipment

required imposes a certain limitation on the procurement from developing countries, especially since such supplies have to meet the recipients' and the Agency's requirments in terms of safety and cost; nevertheless, with expanding manufacturing capacities in developing countries, an upward trend in procurement from this source can be observed.

Organization: IAEA

SECTION II

Level of Support for TCDC by Number of Activities and amounts (in $'000s US), 1 January 1990 - 31 December 1990

I. PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

(A) Strengthening of Countries' Capacities for TCDC

Type of Activities	Regular Programme		UNDP Country IPF		UNDP Regional IPF		UNDP INT/GLO IPF		Development Banks		Funds-in-Trust & Other External Donors		Recipient Countries' Own Trust Funds		Total Current Reporting Period		Total Preceding Reporting Period	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
Institution Strengthening																		
Networking																		
Info System																		
Strengthening TCDC Focal Points																		
TCDC Training																		
Other																		
Sub-totals																		

(B) Specific Activities to Promote, Identify or Formulate TCDC Operational Activities

Meetings, Seminars & Workshops	1	10													1	10	-	-
Feasibility Studies & Surveys																		
Training																		
Other																		
Sub-totals																		
TOTAL		10														10		

II. CATALYTIC SUPPORT PROVIDED TO OPERATIONAL TCDC ACTIVITIES

Experts	18	61			1	2					4	9			23	72	38	131
Equipment																		
Fellowships																		
Contracts																		
Other Training Courses	41	867			21	511			1	93	16	155	2	12	81	1638	44	1173
Total Operational	59	928			22	513			1	93	20	164	2	12	104	1710	82	1304
GRAND TOTAL	59	938			22	513			1	93	20	164	2	12	105	1720	82	1304

Table 1

Organization: IAEA

SECTION III

Statistical Summary

Utilization of the Capacities of Developing Countries in Programmes and Projects of the UN Development System

1 January 1989 - 31 December 1990

Experts/Consultants

preceding reporting period

Total Provided		Recruited from Developing Countries			
W/M	US$ '000s	W/M	US $ '000s	% of Total US $	% of Total $ US
2 459	20 749	1 193	7 976	38.4	31.1

Fellowships

preceding reporting period

Total Provided		Placed in Developing Countries			
W/M	US$ '000s	W/M	US $ '000s	% of Total US $	% of Total $ US
8 526	20 536	2 674	4 327	21.1	16.7

Equipment

preceding reporting period

Total Provided		Purchased From Developing Countries		
US$ '000s		US $ '000s	% of Total US $	% of Total $ US
43 834		4 381	10.0	7.9

Subcontracts

Total Provided		Awarded to Institutions/Firms of Developing Countries			
Number	US$ '000s	Number	US $ '000s	% of Total Number	% of Total $ US
45	1 383	21	353	46.7	25.5

preceding reporting period
20.1

Table 2

5. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Support for the expansion of trade and economic relations among developing countries has been one of the main themes of UNCTAD's work since its creation. The related areas of TCDC, in the sense of promoting the sharing of experience and technical capacities among developing countries, is also an important feature of UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities. This is reflected in the large number of intercountry projects (more than two thirds of UNCTAD's technical cooperation expenditure in 1989-1990) whose common charcteristic is precisely to promote exchanges of skills and experience among developing countries.

However, statistical and financial reporting on TCDC activities by UNCTAD has been constrained by a lack of precision as to what types of UNCTAD technical cooperation properly qualifies as TCDC. The most recent interpretation offered by the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on TCDC (DP/1990/77, para. 8) has not, in UNCTAD's view, clarified the situation for operational and reporting purposes. Consequently, this progress report, like the previous ones, can only be illustrative, rather than comprehensive; and the statistical data should be treated with care: since many TCDC-related activities overlap with each other, the statistical section is confined to 1(a), i.e. strengthening of capacities for TCDC, an objective that runs throughout much of UNCTAD's technical cooperation.

I. Support to promotional and operational TCDC activities

As already indicated, the majority of UNCTAD's technical cooperation programmes involve activities where developing countries have the opportunity of sharing or exchanging experience and skills . The following are a few illustrative examples where, in addition, developing countries have taken an active role in managing and financing such activities in 1990.

(a) The TRAINMAR programme (training activities in the maritime sector) involves cooperative arrangements between institutions in developing countries, including the exchange of instructors and training materials. In 1990, for two TRAINMAR projects, in West Africa and Latin America respectively, several developing countries have made financial contributions to enable the further strengthening of the TRAINMAR network in their subregion.

(b) Developing countries continued to cooperate among themselves in the Group of 24 on international marketing issues. Financial contributions of $100,000, to an UNCTAD-executed project, by several developing countries have supplemented contributions from UNDP and IDRC (International Development Research Centre).

(c) UNCTAD has continued its support to the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP). The GSTP project has provided for exchange of information and technical expertise among participating developing countries in the implementation of the scheme. The GSTP support project is financed by the

Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund, managed by UNDP on behalf of the Group of 77. In addition, in 1990, six developing countries made direct contributions to UNCTAD amounting to $81,500 to the GSTP support project.

(d) Under an UNCTAD-executed UNDP-funded regional project for least developed and island developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, a seminar on technology transfer and management was organized from 2 to 15 December 1990 for the participating countries. The Government of the Philippines (which is not a participating country in the project itself) made a substantial contribution to the seminar by hosting it (in Manila), providing seven resource persons, logistic and secretarial services and organizing field visits to national institutions.

(e) Technical skills and experience are often embodied in computer software, the use of which features increasingly in UNCTAD's technical cooperation programmes, notably in the areas of customs administration and debt management. In the course of installing such computer systems in developing countries and testing them, they are regularly being enhanced and adapted. Technicians and users in developing countries play an important part in this process, and often initiate it. The new features and capabilities developed in a particular country or subregion are then made available freely to other developing countries, and thus contribute direct sharing of experience.

II. Measures taken (or planned) to strengthen the organization's supportive role in promoting TCDC

The Joint Technical Cooperation Unit, attached to the Secretary-General's office, as part of Executive Direction and Management, is the UNCTAD focal point for TCDC. In order to improve UNCTAD's understanding of what activities properly qualify as TCDC, UNCTAD has invited the Special Unit for TCDC to cooperate in enhancing the organization's capacity to support TCDC activities in the area of trade and development and to facilitate mutual linkages between ECDC and TCDC in view of the complementary responsibilities of UNCTAD and UNDP in this regard.

III. Use of developing countries' capacities

The main input in UNCTAD's technical cooperation projects consists of technical personnel. The use of expertise from developing countries has continued to be an important characteristic of UNCTAD programmes. For instance, in 1990, out of 27 long-term project personnel (excluding associate experts), 18 were from developing countries. Procurement of equipment and supplies is relatively limited and, for most of the items (computer hardware and vehicles), sourcing from developing countries is usually not possible or practicable.

6. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Introduction

1. In accordance with the responsibilities as a lead organization within the United Nations development system, UNDP has endeavoured, in association with the other organizations of the system, to promote TCDC and to provide catalytic support for operational TCDC activities. The sources of finance for these activities are primarily the country, regional, interregional and global indicative planning figures (IPFs) established by the Governing Council. In addition to the IPFs, the Council has since 1979 approved funds from Special Programme Resources (SPR) for the promotion of action-oriented TCDC activities, including information support and exchange regarding TCDC potentialities.

UNDP support for TCDC during the biennium 1989-1990

2. UNDP expenditures for TCDC activities fall into two categories: (a) funds allocated for the support of country and intercountry projects executed by other organizations of the United Nations development system; and (b) funds provided by UNDP for TCDC activities executed by Governments or UNDP itself.

3. Data provided by five organizations which have identified the various sources of funds for their TCDC activities indicate that $57.2 million of the $120 million spent by them on TCDC came from UNDP country and regional IPFs. In addition to this amount, a total of $104.4 million was spent from resources of country, regional and interregional and global IPFs and from the SPR allocations for TCDC activities executed by Governments of developing countries or by UNDP itself.

4. This brings the total amount of UNDP resources allocated to TCDC during 1989-1990 to $161.6 million, compared to $104.9 million reported at the sixth session of the High-level Committee for the 1987-1988 biennium (TCDC/6/2/Add.3, p. 7), an increase of over 50 per cent. These represented 9.6 per cent of all IPF expenditures in 1989-1990, which were $1,673.8 million. The corresponding figures for 1987-1988 were 7.3 per cent out of total IPF expenditures of $1,443.4 million. The breakdown of UNDP IPF expenditures for TCDC during 1989-1990, by geographical regions and by the type of IPF is shown in the table below.

5. Total TCDC expenditures under country IPFs in 1989-1990 under government or UNDP execution amounted to $12.4 million or 0.9 per cent of the total country IPF expenditures of $1,360.3 million. In 1987-1988, this expenditure was $6.5 million or 0.6 per cent of total country IPF expenditures of $1,158.2 million.

6. Total TCDC expenditures under regional IPFs in 1989-1990 amounted to $77.2 million or 29.8 per cent of the total regional IPF expenditures of $259.1 million. In 1987-1988, total TCDC expenditures under regional IPFs were $83.0 million or 37.1 per cent out of total regional IPF expenditures of $223.6 million.

7. Total TCDC expenditures for 1989-1990 under the interregional and global IPFs amounted to $13.6 million or 25 per cent of the total interregional and global IPF expenditures of $54.4 million. In 1987-1988, total TCDC expenditures under interregional and global IPFs were $15.4 million or 25 per cent out of total interregional and global IPF expenditures of $61.6 million.

8. In the Asia and the Pacific region, 0.56 per cent ($2.9 million) of total country IPF expenditures ($526.9 million) were used for TCDC activities in the biennium 1989-1990. TCDC activities accounted for 40.5 per cent ($34.2 million) of total regional IPF expenditures ($84.5 million) for the same period.

9. Eight countries - China, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, the Republic of Korea and Thailand - have approved specific TCDC projects under their country IPFs to provide catalytic financing for their TCDC exchanges. Most of these projects are of the umbrella type, while others support specific cooperative activities with other identified developing countries. Indonesia and China have developed structured and recurrent TCDC training programmes, and a part of their project funds have been used to facilitate participation in these programmes by trainees from other developing countries.

10. In the Arab States and Europe region, 0.27 per cent ($403,000) of total country IPF expenditures ($149.9 million) were used for TCDC activities in the biennium 1989-1990. TCDC activities accounted for 30 per cent ($6.3 million) of total regional IPF expenditures ($21.2 million) for the same period. This is mainly attributed to support of networking activities. Two countries, Djibouti and Tunisia, have established TCDC umbrella projects financed from their country IPFs. In addition, following Egypt's and Tunisia's TCDC programming exercises in Cairo (July 1988), and Tunisia (April 1987), respectively, two regional projects are being implemented to facilitate the process by which the least developed countries of the Arab States region can tap the capacities of Egypt and Tunisia in meeting some of their technical assistance needs under TCDC arrangements.

11. In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, 0.56 per cent ($7.27 million) of total country IPF expenditures ($133.1 million) were used for TCDC activities in the biennium 1989-1990. TCDC activities accounted for 72.3 per cent ($15.9 million) of total regional IPF expenditures ($22.0 million) for the same period.

12. Ten countries - Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela - have established TCDC umbrella projects financed from their country IPFs. The regional programme strategy is to promote TCDC. Regional projects are being formulated and implemented with that focus, particularly those in main programme areas such as technological advancement, critical poverty, self-sustained growth, environment and development.

13. In the Africa region, 0.32 per cent ($1.79 million) of total country IPF expenditures ($550.4 million) were used for TCDC activities in the biennium 1989-1990. TCDC activities accounted for 15.8 per cent ($20.7 million) of total regional IPF expenditures ($131.5 million) for the same period.

14. The TCDC activities funded by the Regional Programme for Africa during the 1989-1990 biennium cover essentially three types of programmes:

(a) Those initiated in the preceding bienniums in support of interregional and intra-African TCDC in areas such as training at the Regional Sugarcane Training Centre for Africa in Mauritius, and TCDC exchanges between sub-Saharan Africa on the one hand and Brazil and Tunisia on the other;

(b) Continued strengthening of regional and subregional institutions, e.g., Preferential Trade Area (PTA), Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);

(c) Intraregional collaboration fostered through the use of African expertise, and sharing of know-how through the activities of networking arrangements, e.g., the African Regional Pest Management Network (PESTNET) sponsored by the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), the African Timber Organization (ATO) and the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI).

Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

15. The Special Unit for TCDC continues to spearhead UNDP's lead organization role for TCDC in the United Nations development system. Its major promotional activities during the 1989-1990 period included two orientation and training seminars in TCDC concepts and methodologies, six TCDC programming exercises, five single capacity workshops; catalytic support to eight regional and interregional meetings of relevance to TCDC and the continued development and operation of the TCDC Information Referral System - INRES-South.

16. The two orientation and training seminars, one conducted in Baghdad in February 1990, the other in Islamabad in July 1990, each attended by government officials, managers from semi-governmental and statutory corporations, and locally based UNDP and agencies' staff, dealt in depth with the comparative advantages of the use of TCDC modalities in the formulation and implementation of development projects. In addition, TCDC policies and

procedures continued to be included in the year-round staff training programmes of UNDP.

17. Of the six TCDC programming exercises conducted in the two-year period, three (in Ghana, Indonesia and the United Republic of Tanzania) were multisectoral, while each of three in Argentina, Mexico and India focused on single sectors - maritime, aquaculture and cooperatives, respectively. Details of these exercises are provided in another document before the Committee (TCDC/7/4). While each of the multisectoral exercises matched the capacities and needs of the institutions of the host country with those of the invited countries, the unisectoral exercises moved a step forward by giving the participating countries the choice of identifying TCDC opportunities in any of the other participating countries within or beyond a region that would best suit their needs in the particular sector focused in the exercise.

18. Of the five single capacity TCDC workshops supported during the period under review, one was in Addis Ababa, two in India, one in Cuba, and one in Yugoslavia. The workshop in Addis Ababa, held in December 1989, concerned transfer of technology in small and medium industries. One of the two Indian workshops, held in Jaipur from 24 to 28 September 1990, and attended by participants from 16 developing countries, demonstrated the manufacture and installation of the prosthetic artificial limb, the Jaipur Foot, developed there. The other one, sponsored by the Indian chapter of the non-governmental organization, Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood (GROOTS), and attended by participants from 20 developing countries, was held in Bangalore from 12 to 26 March 1990. It concentrated on the subject of "Decision-making by rural women". The workshop organized by the Government of Cuba in Havana from 2 to 7 October 1990 and attended by participants from 18 developing countries of Latin America and the Caribbean region examined the diverse usages of bagasse and recommended the establishment of a bagasse centre for developing countries in Cuba with corresponding branches in Brazil and Mexico. Through another workshop held in November 1990, Yugoslavia's experience in poultry development was demonstrated to, and shared with, participants from 11 developing countries.

19. Among the eight regional and interregional seminars and meetings of relevance to TCDC supported during the year, two were held in Africa, one in Asia, four in Latin America and one in Western Europe. One of the two meetings in Africa was that of the Action Committee on Raw Materials, held in Abuja in April 1989, under the auspices of the Group of 77; the other was the Third Meeting of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Developing Countries, members of the Group of 77, held in Harare in November 1989. The International Association of Economic Journalists (IAEJ), a non-governmental organization, organized a seminar in New Delhi, India, in November 1990 on the theme of South/South technical and economic cooperation, attended by economic journalists from 20 developing countries. In July 1989 and again in September 1990, TCDC focal points from developing countries of Latin America and the Caribbean region met in Cartagena, and Caracas, respectively, under the aegis of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) to develop and review TCDC priorities for the region and to negotiate TCDC projects in different sectors.

20. The Fourth Annual Meeting of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of developing countries, members of the Group of 77, was held in Havana in November 1990 and focused on questions concerning removal of impediments to South/South trade, the establishment of an international secretariat for developing countries' chambers, and the creation of a South-South Trade Information Network, and took a number of decisions for action in 1991.

21. The Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) held its first Meeting of Focal Points for Technical Cooperation among Islamic Countries in Istanbul in March 1990. This was attended by delegates from 21 Islamic developing countries, and made a series of recommendations for the first Ministerial Meeting of OIC, which met in Istanbul in May 1990 to consider those recommendations leading to the strengthening of technical cooperation among Islamic countries.

22. Catalytic support to all these meetings and seminars was among the principal activities of the Special Unit for TCDC, carried out in cooperation with the respective regional bureaux and other relevant headquarters units, and offices of resident representatives during the period under review.

23. INRES-South, in the Special Unit for TCDC, commenced decentralization on an experimental basis with the establishment of "outposted installations" in a number of locations including governmental institutions in Algeria and Tunisia, UNDP field offices in Cyprus, Ghana, Haiti and Iraq, one intergovernmental regional organization (SELA in Caracas) and one United Nations agency (UNIDO). Principal efforts during 1990, apart from the pilot experiment in decentralization, were dedicated to the creation of a CD-ROM version of INRES-South, UNDP's first database to be published in CD-ROM format, and related software enhancements. This has created the possibility of using considerably less expensive hardware and dissemination of the database on a wide basis in developing countries. As a result of introducing the CD-ROM database, which was accompanied by numerous revisions in the INRES-South system, the total number of registered institutions remained approximately 4,100. Updating of the database and a campaign to increase the number of high-quality institutions registered with INRES-South were prioritized for 1991.

24. In addition, pursuant to paragaph 5 of decision 6/2 of the High-level Committee, the Special Unit has begun publication of a quarterly INRES-South bulletin which provides information on its usage and profiles of new institutions registered with INRES-South during the preceding quarter. This publication brings to the development community timely information about the services the computerized information referral system offers, thus helping to promote a fuller use of developing country capacities, particularly within the context of TCDC activities and programmes.

Table

Expenditure during the period 1989-1990 from the use of UNDP funds comprising country, regional, interregional and global IPFs of countries for TCDC activities as compared with IPF expenditure

(In thousands of dollars)

Region	IPF expenditures	Expenditure for TCDC activities	Percentage of expenditure for TCDC activities
Country IPFs			
Africa	550 399	1 787	0.32
Asia/Pacific	526 923	2 944	0.56
Arab States and Europe	149 919	403	0.27
Latin America/Caribbean	133 100	7 271	0.56
Total, countries	1 360 341	12 405	0.91
Regional IPFs			
Africa	131 498	20 727	15.8
Asia/Pacific	84 451	34 224	40.5
Arab States and Europe	21 146	6 344	30.0
Latin America/Caribbean	22 000	15 900	72.3
Total, regional projects	259 095	77 195	29.8
Interregional and global IPFs			
Total, interregional and global projects	54 366	13 592	25.0

Table (continued)

Region	IPF expenditures	Expenditure for TCDC activities	Percentage of expenditure for TCDC activities
UNDP funding for TCDC activities of UNDS organizations		57 154	
TOTAL	1 673 802	160 346	9.6

Note: The total of UNDP expenditures for TCDC from both IPFs and SPR during the 1989-1990 biennium is as follows:

(In thousands of dollars)

Expenditures from IPF funds	160 346
Expenditures from SPR funds	1 234
Total UNDP expenditures for TCDC activities	161 580

7. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

I. Support to promotional and operational TCDC activities

A. Strengthening of countries' capacities for TCDC

Institutional strengthening

UNFPA supported projects that strengthened developing countries' population units, national health and education institutions that executed maternal and child health and family planning, family life education, communication support to promote education for girls, delaying marriage, birth spacing and safeguarding the enviroment. In 1989/1990, funds were allocated: (a) to strengthen the national maternal and child health/family planning projects in Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Chad, Comoros, Cape Verde, Namibia, China and Viet Nam; (b) to help in establishing population planning units in Burundi, the Gambia, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; (c) to strengthen the integration of population and family life education into the formal school curriculum in Angola, the Gambia, Senegal and Chad; and (d) to strengthen women's affairs units in Botswana, Mali, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Peru. UNFPA continued to assist the Asia and Pacific Programme for Development Training and Communication Planning (DTCP), working to strengthen the capabilities of countries in the region in training and communication support for implementation of their population programmes.

Networking and information system

UNFPA continued to support projects to develop population information networks in Africa, the Arab States, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. For example, in Africa, UNFPA assisted in the linking-up of the population information network of the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), the Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC), the Centre for African Family Studies (CAFS), the Institut de formation et de recherche demographiques (IFORD) and the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI). The Population Information Network in Africa produced "African Population Newsletter", "POPIN Africa INFO", "POPIN-Africa Scanning Sheet", and the Country Bibliography Series. POPINDEX-Africa, volume 5, was produced in 1989 for distribution to a target audience of population and development professionals and participating centres in Africa. The POPIN-Africa database had been expanded to over 1,500 records. During the last two years, missions were undertaken to Cameroon, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire to intensify the development of national population information centres (NPICs). In Asia, UNFPA continued the support of the documentation and information programme service of the Clearing-House for Population Education, promoting the development and dissemination of various types of materials related to population education in the Asia and Pacific region.

Networking by population and development specialists and experts in the field of population is another key TCDC promotional activity supported by the Fund. In bringing developing country specialists and experts together for the exchange of technical knowledge, skills and experiences between countries in the same region, UNFPA funded several study tours organized for national experts and officials, for example: officials of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United Republic of Tanzania to go to China, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines to exchange knowledge on programme planning and implementation of population policies and the integration of population factors into the national development planning process; for officials of Guinea responsible for the integration of population education in school curricula and mass media programmes to visit more advanced population education projects in Burkina Faso and Mali.

B. Specific activities to promote, identify or formulate TCDC operational activities

Meetings, seminars and workshops

UNFPA assisted in the holding of the African Regional Conference on Options for a Better Life for Young Women, organized by the Family Planning Association of Kenya in cooperation with the Centre for Population and Development (CEDPA); interregional training workshop, organized by the Cairo Demographic Centre; regional training workshop in community participation techniques for women family planning programme managers, and for family planning information, education and communication workers from developing countries, organized by the Planned Parenthood Federation of the Republic of Korea; interregional training workshop on family planning programme management, organized by the National Family Planning Coordinating Board of Indonesia; and the IVth International Congress for Maternal and Neonatal Health in Haiti, organized by the International Association for Maternal and Neonatal Health (IAMANEH).

Feasibility studies and surveys

UNFPA assisted the feasibility study on production of a handbook of population laws of African countries, the Pan-Arab Child and Maternal Health Survey, and the Population Training Needs/Capabilities in the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

Training

UNFPA continued to promote and strengthen training and research activities in population fields in Africa through the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS); training for African journalists in population and development through Inter Press Service; regional training in family health and in fertility management for health personnel in Africa, organized by the Mauritius Regional Training Centre; basic training in population, human resources and development in Africa with fellowships for trainees from

22 African countries, organized by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP).

C. Catalytic support provided to operational TCDC activities

A UNFPA Focal Point Officer went to Indonesia to participate in the TCDC Multisectoral Programming Meeting in Jakarta in 1990, which gave her an opportunity to participate in bilateral negotiations between representatives of Indonesia and 29 other developing countries, resulting in the development of 12 project requests in the field of population and family planning for catalytic supports from UNFPA in the future.

II. Measures taken or planned to strengthen the organization's supportive role in promoting TCDC

In 1990, UNFPA established an internal task force consisting of representatives from functioning branches and divisions of the Fund to strengthten the UNFPA implemention of the TCDC Plan of Action and promote TCDC activities for future catalytic support within the branch and division. The task force members meet regularly under the chairmanship of the Deputy Executive Director (Programme).

III. Use of developing countries' capacities

UNFPA supported the use of developing countries' institutions and expertise in programme review and strategy development missions to 17 developing countries in 1989/1990. Local contraceptive productions were set up with assistance from UNFPA in India, Viet Nam and Indonesia. Research institutions based in developing countries were used by UNFPA in conducting regional studies and surveys, for example, the UNFPA-supported International Islamic Centre for Population Research and Studies at Al-Azhar University arranged seminars in Fez, Morocco and in Sana'a, Yemen, where eminent theologians from Al-Azhar University debated the precepts of Islam on the quality of life of Moslem populations and discussed with the participants the position of Islam towards family planning.

IV. Innovative approach to TCDC

- The use of umbrella project funds, which UNFPA Country Directors have at their disposal of up to $50,000 for hiring developing country's consultants and conducting workshops for programming and monitoring purposes to cover the cost of TCDC project appraisal and monitoring;

- The engagement of national experts for TCDC components in project formulation by UNFPA Country Director - finding ways for retainership of national expertise at field offices;

- The UNFPA Country Directors using his/her decentralized approval authority of $500,000 to approve new projects with strong TCDC components or for supplementary budget requests within certain limits, and for requests for budget revisions of all country projects in order to accommodate the TCDC components that have been neglected in programme and project development in the past.

1989/1990 UNFPA-assisted projects that have TCDC components

National, regional and interregional projects receiving financial support from UNFPA in 1989/90 which contained the elements of cooperation among developing countries or promoting TCDC objectives of self-reliance, mutual support and cooperation by sharing of knowledge and technical expertise among developing countries included the following:

Africa

- Assistance to the National Safe Motherhood Programme in the Congo;
- Assistance in the establishment of Population Planning Unit in Burundi;
- Assistance in the use of microcomputers in the processing of population census data in Mozambique;
- Strengthening the National Maternal and Child Health/Family Planning in Ghana;
- Integration of population and family life education into formal school curricula in Angola;
- Formulation and implementation of population and human resources policies and planning in the Gambia;
- Introduction of population and family life education into the formal education system in the Gambia;
- Assistance to Maternal and Child Health/Birth Spacing Programme in Equatorial Guinea;
- Programme to stimulate national experts, and policy makers' interest in population problems in Côte d'Ivoire;
- Family life education and assistance to women's centres in Madagascar;
- Population information, education and communication activities in Somalia;

- National Population Conference in Kenya;
- Contraceptive Prevalence Survey in Mauritius;
- Strengthening of civil registration and vital statistics system in demonstration areas in Botswana;
- Strenghtening of Women's Affairs Unit in Botswana;
- Introduction of population education into the formal school system in Burkina Faso;
- Assistance to the Family Planning Association in Madagascar;
- Population and housing census in Zimbabwe;
- Support to National Women's Union of Mali;
- Family life education schools in Senegal;
- Strengthening maternal and child health and family planning services and statistics in Comoros;
- Strengthening the Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning Programme in Cape Verde;
- Strengthening of Population Policy and Development Planning Unit in Tanzania;
- Strengthening training in demography at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania;
- Population and sustainable development in Mauritius;
- Women, education, health and employment in Mali;
- Establishment of a Population Planning Unit in Burundi;
- Centre for Research, Training and Information on Women in Development in Addis Ababa University, Institute of Development Research in Ethiopia;
- Strengthening of maternal and child health and family planning services in Chad;
- Population and family life education in Chad;
- Strenghtening of maternal and child health and child spacing in Namibia.

Arab States and Europe

- Establishment of cooperatives for rual women in Er-Rachidia in Morocco;
- Population education and women in development in Morocco;
- Information and communication on health and family planning in Morocco;
- Population development information and communication in Yemen;
- Assistance to the National Institute of Demographic Research and Studies in Tunisia;
- Training of research planners and academicians in methodologies for integrating demographic variables in socio-economic planning in Yugoslavia;
- Assistance in formulation and implementation of national population and human resources policies in the Sudan.

Asia and Pacific

- Population census of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
- Establishment of Documentation and Resource Centre for Aurat Foundation in Pakistan;
- Survey on fertility, family planning and health status in Nepal;
- Strengthening maternal and child health and family planning services at the grass-roots level in China;
- Training Programme for Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning Personnel in Viet Nam;
- Institutional strengthening of the University of the Philippines, Population Institute for Technical Assistance in Population Planning;
- Support for population research at the Academy of Social Sciences of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
- Strengthening the capability for research in human reproduction and family planning;
- Increasing the quality and coverage of responsible parenthood and family planning service delivery in the Philippines;

- Support for the strengthening of Population Centre in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

- Support for establishing population teaching programme at Kim Il Sung University in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

- Local production of contraceptives in Viet Nam.

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Improvement of women's health in the coal-mining areas of Chile;

- Establishment of a Regional Centre for Training and Research in Adolescent Reproductive Health at the University of Chile;

- Population and housing census in El Salvador;

- Training and research in population at the autonomous national University of Honduras;

- Training of women in reproductive health, sex education and community development in Uruguay;

- National Conference on Women's Health in Brazil;

- Training for the socio-economic and educational improvement of organized women's groups in Costa Rica;

- Expansion of women's centres in Montego Bay and Brown's Town, St. Ann in Jamaica;

- Support for the formulation of the National Programme for Women in Development In Peru.

Regional projects

- Training for media professionals in population and development issues in Latin America and the Caribbean;

- Regional Meeting on Engendering Adjustment for the 1990s;

- Africa Regional Conference on Options for a Better Life for Young Women organized by the Family Planning Association of Kenya in cooperation with CEDPA;

- Advisory services and training in demographic data collection and analysis in the Middle East;

- Training for African journalists in population and development reporting;

- Support to the 1990 Round of Censuses in the Caribbean through the Caribbean Community (CARICOM);

- Dissemination of population information and media training through Press Foundation of Asia;

- Support to African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children;

- Regional training for women leaders from developing countries on community development and family planning in the Republic of Korea;

- Regional training programme for family planning information, education and communication workers from developing countries in the Republic of Korea;

- Feasibility study on production of Handbook of Population Laws of African Countries;

- African study tour to China;

- Fellowship programme of the International Institute for Population Sciences in India;

- Population information dissemination and media training in Asia through Inter Press Service;

- Support to the Asian Institute of Management in organizing training workshop on integrating women's component into population programmes in Asia and the Pacific region.

Interregional projects

- The IVth International Congress for Maternal and Neonatal Health in Haiti, organized by the International Association for Maternal and Neonatal Health (IAMANEH);

- Interregional training workshop, organized by the Cairo Demographic Centre.

8. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

ECA's activities to promote and support TCDC during the biennium 1989-1990 in Africa

General overview

1. It should be noted that since the mid-1980s ECA has been making a special effort to encourage the use of TCDC as a means of helping to overcome the serious economic difficulties which began to face African countries when the effects of the international economic crisis of the 1980s shook national economies and gravely endangered the development prospects of a great majority of African countries. This concern necessitated the convening of a special session of the General Assembly in May 1986 to discuss Africa's worsening economic crisis. The main feature of the special session was the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (UNPAAERD), which has been the focus of ECA's major technical and substantive activities since that time. This important feature of Africa's development is worth mentioning as it added a new and unexpected dimension which was not present in the basic philosophy of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. The predominant conditions in 1978 when the Plan of Action was adopted were radically different from those which emerged dramatically as a result of the impact of the crisis of the entire region.

2. Thus, during the biennium 1989-1990, ECA continued to provide its support and collaboration to strengthen and expand the use of TCDC in response to the needs of the countries of the region in keeping with the general lines of its programme of work and the specific mandates contained in resolution 355 (XIV) adopted at the fourteenth session of the Commission on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and regions. The mandates given to the secretariat in that resolution referred to the following matters:

(a) Intensifying activities to support the national TCDC focal points;

(b) Continuing to incorporate forms of TCDC in the activities of the secretariat's programme of work;

(c) Continuing to put into effect initiatives aimed at disseminating more widely information on TCDC capacities and requirements in the countries of the region;

(d) Intensifying coordination with other bodies and organizations which carry out activities of support, promotion or execution of TCDC projects in the region; and

(e) Continuing to promote joint actions with the other regional commissions for the implementation of interregional cooperation projects.

3. A large part of the work performed during the period covered by this report was aimed at carrying forward the major tasks which ECA had been conducting during the preceding biennium. These activities were undertaken in connection with projects whose financing came from extrabudgetary resources which were aimed at promoting and supporting TCDC in specific sectors as well as ongoing efforts related to the dissemination of information, economic cooperation and integration and the provision of support for initiatives taken by national coordination centres.

4. Finally, during the period in question, ECA also intensified its collaboration with the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC both in respect of the appraisal of the first decade of the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, which constituted a special concern at the sixth session of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (September 1989) and in connection with activities to support sectoral exercises in subregional, regional and interregional TCDC programming in the fields of agriculture, industry, transport, trade, etc.

Coordination within the United Nations system and with non-United Nations systems promoting TCDC/ECDC

5. The striking progress made with respect to regional TCDC coordination activities during the biennium necessitates special attention in view of the concerns which have been expressed by some member States in this regard.

6. Coordination with non-United Nations systems promoting TCDC/ECDC is mainly reflected in the important aspect of the work of ECA's Multinational Programming Operational Centres (MULPOCs), whose work is the promotion and strengthening of subregional integration groupings, such as the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), among member States of Lusaka-based MULPOC, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the proposed PTA among member States of the Tangier-based MULPOC.

TCDC activities undertaken by ECA/OAU/UNIDO/FAO

7. Consistent with the principles and basic definitions enunciated in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, TCDC is the responsibility of the Governments of the countries concerned. The organizations of the United Nations system do not carry out TCDC; instead, they confine their efforts to the promotion and support, within their areas of expertise, of the initiatives taken by Governments in this regard. In keeping with this role, ECA in collaboration with OAU, UNIDO, FAO or any other appropriate agency conducts activities to facilitate and permit TCDC among its member States within the framework of its programme of work and, within the various areas covered by that programme, strives to strengthen elements or mechanisms likely to foster TCDC.

8. These promotional and support activities generally form part of specific technical cooperation projects. These projects, which are funded by means of extrabudgetary resources, concerned the following areas of endeavour during the biennium:

(a) Identification of opportunities for cooperation among developing countries or group countries;

(b) Support for the exchange of experiences among developing countries in given areas or sectors;

(c) The strengthening of the countries' institutional capacities to engage in TCDC activities; and

(d) Utilization of the developing countries' existing capabilities in respect of TCDC activities.

A synopsis of TCDC modalities in specific projects

9. Many of the projects conducted during the biennium included activities specifically designed to promote TCDC in terms of one or another of the above-mentioned areas. Although this fact makes it difficult to provide a detailed account of all such activities, some of those in which elements of TCDC were crucial to the achievement of project objectives include the establishment of an African Economic Community by the Year 2000; the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, 1980-1990; the Joint ECA/IOM Return of Skills Programme for Africa; and the Association of Food Marketing Agencies in Eastern and Southern Africa. Details of other such projects are given below.

Project - establishment of a South-South partnership promotion centre

10. The first meeting of the interorganizational Ad Hoc Committee on the centre was held in the headquarters of the ADB in Abidjan from 25 to 27 September 1990. The meeting considered modalities of establishing the centre that could accelerate the African economic integration process through South/South cooperation.

11. The primary objective of the centre is to promote the economic and social development of Africa with the active involvement of the private sector through South/South cooperation as an instrument also for economic integration.

12. ECA, UNIDO, FAO, ADB and UNDP make up the interorganizational Ad Hoc Committee. The meeting considered and agreed on the relevant points that should be taken into account in the course of the finalization of the statutes for the centre. The meeting also took note that UNDP had agreed to finance the preparatory phase of the project up to an amount of $105,790. The meeting felt that because of the magnitude of the exercise, that amount might not be sufficient and agreed on appropriate action to obtain supplementary support through fund-raising missions to economic integration entities in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

13. ECA considers the project to be an important one in its efforts to promote TCDC/ECDC between Africa and other developing parts of the world. It has, therefore, decided to submit it at the 16th meeting of its Conference of Ministers for endorsement by African countries.

Afro-Arab cooperation

14. This project is sponsored by OAU. However, OAU collaborates with ECA and ADB to assist in its implementation. Thus, ECA and the ADB were able to participate in the Inter-secretariat Meeting of Experts held at OAU headquarters, Addis Ababa from 4 to 7 September 1989. The meeting prepared, harmonized and finalized working documents for the eleventh session of the Standing Commission for Afro-Arab Cooperation that was held in Washington, in September/October 1989. The documents prepared, harmonized and finalized by the Inter-secretariat Meeting were in respect of:

(a) Proposed Afro-Arab institution for investment;

(b) Framework agreement on the establishment of an Afro-Arab Preferential Trade Area; and

(c) Preparations for the organization of the First Afro-Arab Trade Fair.

15. In the field of population, the UNFPA regular two-year progress report recognizes the great potential of TCDC approaches in obtaining insights into the population problems and their relation to development cooperation for improving the living conditions of all people. The exchanges of experience and knowlege between institutions of developing countries and their joint analysis, together with UNFPA staff, of problems encountered in culturally and economically similar situations have brought about better understanding and new techniques in population programming.

16. Thus, during the biennium 1989-1990, UNFPA continued to play a catalytic role in assisting countries to develop common projects using the TCDC model of cooperation. In order to strengthen capacities for TCDC, UNFPA continues the support of activities of regional institutions such as the Population Unit of OAU, the Regional Demographic Training and Research Centres at Yaoundé and Accra, the Institute for Economic Development and Planning and the Council for the Development of Economic and Social Research in Africa. UNFPA also continues its cooperation with ECA's Population Division through the project Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN).

ECA/India Rural Technology Development, Demonstration and Replication Centre in Dakar

17. This project forms a logical continuation of the first one (DIRAFO - K39) also funded by the Indian Government in the promotion of rural technology in Africa. However, having completed all the phases in the first project, this second project aims at establishing a demonstration centre which would undertake the demonstration of viable technologies as well as replication of the same technologies by using local raw materials.

18. An intergovernmental expert group meeting on prospects for South-South trade promotion in processed and semi-processed products was held by ECA in Addis Ababa from 2 to 5 October 1990.

19. The meeting deliberated on the following and advanced feasible policies and strategies for their enhancement:

(a) Prospects for trade promotion in processed and semi-processed products between Africa and other developing regions;

(b) The role of South-South trade in promoting experts diversification and development in Africa; and

(c) Intra-African trade potential and possible programme of action for promoting trade among developing countries.

Pan-African Development Information System (PADIS)

20. A major venture by ECA continued to provide effective impetus to TCDC within Africa and beyond, PADIS is concerned with both numerical and non-numerical information and is a decentralized system for the assembly, storage and retrieval of information needed to support developmental activities in Africa. An important activity which is currently under way is the establishment and strengthening not only of PADIS subregional centres, but also of national documentation centres linked to PADIS headquarters in Addis Ababa. Every two years PADIS updates its directory on African experts and consultancy organizations.

21. The Customs and Economic Union Organization of Central Africa (UDEAC) has identified inter alia a number of chemical and pharmaceutical projects which it hoped to implement with the cooperation of the Republic of China. Likewise,the Economic Community of the Great Lakes (CEPGL) is trying to develop its vast peat deposits with a view to augmenting its fuels resources.

Cooperation among developing regions

22. The subject of cooperation among developing regions has been one of concern to the regional commissions of the United Nations as a whole, particularly to ECA. The subject continues to be accorded priority attention during successive meetings of the executive secretariats of regional commissions since the mid-1980s, and this has been reflected in a prolonged and sustained joint effort to design a series of projects aimed at promoting cooperation among the countries of the developing regions in various sectors of prime importance to economic and social development in response to the specific mandates contained in resolution 1983/66 of the Economic and Social Council.

23. Consequent upon the final revision of the selected projects by the executive secretaries at their meeting of February 1989 held at ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok, a number of approaches were made, particularly to UNDP, to secure funds for the implementation of some of these projects. These initiatives did not have the expected results and the subject was therefore discussed again at the meeting of executive secretaries of regional commissions held in April 1989 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago. At this

meeting, the executive secretaries reiterated their commitment to efforts aimed at securing the minimum resources necessary to initiate a smaller number of projects and agreed to support the undertaking of a project on interregional transport, coordinated by the Economic Commission for Europe, under the general oversight of the Economic and Social Council.

24. In addition to the joint action taken by the executive secretaries to regularly review the subject of interregional cooperation in their periodic meetings of consultation and coordination, ECA has involved itself in one or two specific initiatives in this area:

(a) Consultations between ECA and ECLAC at the level of the respective substantive divisions for the elaboration of a possible joint project for the exchange of experiences in the area of the formulation and implementation of technological development policies, a project which will culminate in the holding of an interregional seminar in 1991;

(b) The participation of representatives of several African countries in the regular courses of the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) which were offered during the 1988-1989 biennium, thus continuing an express policy of the centre in the administration of its fellowship programme;

(c) The participation of ECA in the meeting between the regional commissions and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) held in February 1989 at the Institute's headquarters in Santo Domingo. The meeting examined the possible spheres and modalities of coordination and joint programming within the framework of the medium-term plan of INSTRAW for 1990-1995.

Guidelines for action

25. A review of the activities undertaken by ECA in support of TCDC during the biennium 1989-1990 reveals a sustained effort to pursue the implementation of modalities of horizontal cooperation in order to execute the programme of work of the secretariat, the vital importance of TCDC to that programme and to regional cooperation in the broad sense of the term.

26. Activities to promote and support TCDC in the ECA system are directly related to the above-mentioned programme of work whose main priority areas reflect the concerns of the countries of the region in the face of the tasks and challenges posed by economic and social development. This programme would make way for the elaboration of criteria to identify possible sectors or areas in which the contribution of TCDC should be strengthened in order to achieve the objectives determined by the programme.

27. Notwithstanding the above, it must be pointed out that orientation of future work in TCDC, at the operational level, should be towards continuing the modalities of work used by the secretariat, and reaffirming certain basic approaches which should be restated here, such as:

(a) Increased use of extrabudgetary resources for undertaking activities to promote and support TCDC in order to prevent financial repercussions on the resources allocated in the regular budget of the organization;

(b) Increased participation of ECA in the coordination initiatives undertaken in the region to maximize the results obtained by the various regional bodies in this field, both within and outside the United Nations system;

(c) Constant support in coordination with UNDP and other relevant regional organizations for the initiatives taken by countries or groups of countries to pursue TCDC programming at the regional or subregional level in those sectors that are considered priority for their economic and social development.

Conclusions

28. In the overall appraisal and general assessment of the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action assessing from the year the Plan of Action was adopted, there can be no denial that some degree of progress has been achieved in TCDC. However, that progress has been limited owing to lack of a sustained will and commitment by the international community to support TCDC all the way. There is a compelling need to move away from rhetoric to concrete actions and projects. Resources are required and financial support from the developed countries for TCDC projects is crucial.

29. The move of UNDP to allow sufficient flexibility on its rules and procedures to enable developing countries to make more effective and fuller use of IPFs for TCDC is timely and appropriate.

30. It would be quite useful for TCDC activities to be implemented on a tripartite basis between national governments and interested parties. Regional bodies and organizations should also take a more active role in TCDC.